

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 265128

63

ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 L-03 OIC-02 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07

EUR-12 NEA-10 DHA-02 SSO-00 /075 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO:WPOBRIEN:CMS

APPROVED BY IO/UNESCO:RDFORSTER

----- 107492

O R 272138Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 265128

NESCO

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: DRAFT DECLARATION
ON MASS MEDIA

REF: JIDDA 7001, LAGOS 12226

1. US PERM DEL TO UNESCO CABLING TO ACTION POSTS FULL TEXT
OF DRAFT DECLARATION AS REQUESTED YOUR REFTELS. FOLLOWING
IS A SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL OBJECTIONS US HAS TO DRAFT.
POSTS MAY GIVE MFA'S COPIES BOTH DRAFT AND STATEMENT.

2. GENERAL COMMENT: THROUGHOUT THE DRAFT RESOLUTION THERE
ARE REFERENCES TO USE OF THE MASS MEDIA AND TO SPECIFIC
AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MASS MEDIA WHICH
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 265128

GENERATE CLEAR CONNOTATIONS OF GOVERNMENT MANIPULATION AND

CONTROL OF THE MEDIA. ALTHOUGH WE SUPPORT CERTAIN OF THE GOALS ESPOUSED, SUCH AS COMBATTING WAR PROPAGANDA, WE CANNOT AGREE TO A PRINCIPLE THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD COMPEL THE MASS MEDIA TO ADVOCATE GOVERNMENT POLICIES OR TO ADOPT SPECIFIC PROGRAMING. IN SHORT, WE OBJECT TO THE IDEA THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TELL THE MEDIA WHAT TO SAY AND DO, REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH WE MAY AGREE WITH THE PARTICULAR

POLICIES BEING DISCUSSED. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO ELIMINATE THESE CONNOTATIONS BY AMENDMENTS TO THE PRESENT DRAFT DECLARATION BECAUSE ITS BASIC APPROACH SEEMS TO ADVOCATE SUCH GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL.

3. TITLE OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION: THE UNITED STATES OBJECTS TO THE WORDING "USE OF THE MASS MEDIA," WHICH IMPLIES GOVERNMENTAL MANIPULATION AND CONTROL. WE BELIEVE THE BASIC APPROACH MIGHT BE TO ADDRESS THE "ROLE" OF THE MASS MEDIA, BUT NOT ITS "USE."

4. FIRST PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH: THOUGH PURPORTING TO RECALL THE UNESCO CONSTITUTION, THE PARAGRAPH USES NEW FORMULAS SIGNIFICANTLY MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THOSE FOUND IN THAT CONSTITUTION, AND EVEN MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THAT AGREED IN THE CSCE FINAL ACT SIGNED AT HELSINKI IN 1975.

5. FIFTH PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH: THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY OBJECTS TO THE REFERENCE TO UNGA RESOLUTION 3379 (XXX) EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM, AN EQUATION WHICH IT DOES NOT ACCEPT. MOREOVER, IF ONE STARTS FROM THE PREMISE THAT ZIONISM IS A FORM OF RACISM, MUCH OF THE DECLARATION CAN BE USED TO ADVOCATE AND DEFEND EFFORTS TO COMBAT OR ELIMINATE ZIONISM.

6. ELEVENTH PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH: THE PHRASE THAT THE MASS MEDIA "HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE AND MUTUAL RESPECT" IS UNCLEAR BUT RAISES THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTENT CONTROL.

7. THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS: THESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 265128

PARAGRAPHS ALSO CONTAIN AMBIGUOUS REFERENCES TO THE PURPOSES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MASS MEDIA, INCLUDING THE CONTENT OF INFORMATION IN PUBLICATIONS OR BROADCASTS. ALTHOUGH THE GOALS MAY BE DESIRABLE, WE CANNOT AGREE WITH THE IDEA THAT GOVERNMENTS, THROUGH SUPPORTING THIS DRAFT DECLARATION, SHOULD ASSUME A RESPONSIBILITY TO COMPEL THEIR INDEPENDENT MASS MEDIA TO SUPPORT PARTICULAR GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

8. ARTICLES I, V, AND VII: THE UNITED STATES OBJECTS TO IMPOSING AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES ON THE INDEPENDENT MASS MEDIA TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS ESPOUSED IN THESE ARTICLES. WE BELIEVE THESE GOALS ARE GOVERNMENT, NOT MEDIA, RESPONSIBILITIES.

9. ARTICLE VI: THE MEANING OF THE FIRST SENTENCE IS UNCLEAR AND SUBJECT TO VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS, WHILE THE SECOND INVITES UNACCEPTABLE GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF CONTENT.

10. ARTICLE IX: THIS ARTICLE REFERS TO INSURING THAT THE MASS MEDIA ARE "USED" FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. MOREOVER, THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE MASS MEDIA HAS ANY SPECIAL "RESPONSIBILITY" TO YOUTH MORE THAN TO ANY OTHER GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS.

11. ARTICLE XII: THIS ARTICLE FLATLY SAYS THAT STATES HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR "THE ACTIVITIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERE OF ALL MASS MEDIA UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION," A RESPONSIBILITY CONTRARY TO OUR CONCEPT OF AN INDEPENDENT AND FREE PRESS WHICH IS NOT AN ORGAN OF THE GOVERNMENT. ROBINSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE265128
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WPOBRIEN:CMS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760401-0587
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761012/aaaaajuk.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 JIDDA 7001, 76 LAGOS 12226
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: DRAFT DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA
TAGS: OCON, UNESCO
To: JIDDA LAGOS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006